

Forest fires hit biodiversity as heat intensifies in state

Forest Survey Of India Issues 251 Fire Alerts

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Dehradun: The intensity of forest fires has continued to rise across Uttarakhand amid elevated temperatures and prolonged dry weather, adversely affecting biodiversity. The Forest Survey of India issued 251 fire alerts for Uttarakhand on Tuesday.

According to the Uttarakhand forest department, since the onset of the fire season on Feb 15, as many as 14,419 incidents have affected around 331 hectares of forest area till Tuesday evening. Forest patches continued to smoulder in parts of Almora, Chamoli and Rudrapur.

Strong winds have contributed to the rapid spread of flames, with fires in certain locations extending from pine-dominated forests to higher-altitude oak forests situated above 1,800 metres. En-



394 fire incidents have affected around 331 hectares of forest area till Tuesday evening

vironmentalists said fires in oak ecosystems tend to spread slowly due to the accumulation of biomass and woody litter on the forest floor, adversely affecting the biodiversity of these ecosystems.

Representatives of some van panchayats reported fire incidents in oak forests, while in several areas residual smouldering persisted despite fire-fighting efforts.

"We can see thick plumes of smoke from the past four days. This is a forest dominated by oak trees, so even these trees are getting impacted. They are ecologically very important for retaining soil mo-

isture and water," said Ratana Devi, a resident of Almora.

The highest number of fire incidents was reported on the Garhwal region, where 285 incidents charred around 241 hectares. This was followed by the Kumaon region, where 71 incidents affected nearly 64 hectares. In the wildlife administration areas, 35 incidents damaged around 26 hectares of forest land.

During a press briefing on Tuesday, Uttarakhand forest minister Subodh Uniyal said, "The forest department is addressing the fires through coordinated firefighting measures and increased participation of local communities."

Chief conservator of forests Shubhant Pattnaik said, "Of the total forest fire incidents around 1% occurred in oak forest areas. Largely it is chir pine-dominated forests that are affected. Forest personnel are actively engaged in firefighting operations."

(With inputs from Ashish Mishra in Uttarakhand and Prem Punetha in Pithoragarh)

As temp rises, many dists grapple with water crisis

Residents Walk Several Km To Fetch Water

Tammye Tyagi & Yogesh Nagarkoti | TNN

Dehradun/Bageshwar: Residents in several parts of Uttarakhand are facing an acute water shortage amidst rising temperatures, with many in villages forced to walk several kilometres daily to fetch water as demand surges during the summer months.

Temperatures in the state have crossed 40°C on several occasions over the past week. Kaushalya Devi, a domestic worker in Sinaula, said, "Usually we get a two-hour drinking water supply in the morning. Now, it has been reduced to a trickle. We are barely able to fill a two-litre bottle. I get drinking water



TAPPING POINT: Officials said groundwater recharge depends heavily on rain and fluctuations in monsoon after water availability

from my employer's house, while for bathing, washing and cleaning we collect water from an open source."

Officials of the Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan's Dehradun division said the city's water demand rises from around 195 million litres per day (MLD) to nearly 250 MLD during summer, while supply remains around 200 MLD.

tuations in the monsoon of ten affect water availability.

In remote villages of Almora and Bageshwar districts, many of them located far from motorable roads, women travel two to three kilometres daily to fetch water from traditional springs and streams as tanker supply remains insufficient.

Kamla Devi, a resident of Lamgura in Almora, said village taps remain dry for most of the day. "We keep checking the taps since morning, but not even a drop of water comes. Every day we are forced to walk several kilometres to fetch water. Elderly people and women face the biggest hardship," she said. Gopal Singh, another resident, said the crisis returns every summer. "Tankers arrive only occasionally and cannot meet the needs of the entire village. Many now depend on natural springs," he said.

State-wide elephant population estimation exercise begins

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Dehradun: Uttarakhand forest department on Monday launched a state-wide elephant population estimation exercise across all elephant range divisions and tiger reserves. The exercise is being conducted with support from the Wildlife Institute of India, with officials adopting the direct count methodology for the census. The depart-

ment last carried out a similar exercise using the direct count method six years ago.

Director of Jim Corbett National Park, Sat Badola, said, "For the first time, field staff will directly feed counting-related data into the M-STripes (monitoring system for tigers - intensive protection and ecological status) application. The use of information technology in elephant counting will accelerate

the process while also creating an online database of every elephant present in the state."

According to the previous population estimation, Corbett National Park is home to around 120 elephants.

Director of Rajaji National Park, Koko Rose, said, "The elephant direct count method begins by dividing the study area into different sections or transects. Our teams then systematically examine each sec-

Magisterial probe ordered into Naini crash that killed 5

Sonali Mishra | TNN

Nainital: Nearly a week after a road accident on the Bhowali-Dunhalia motor road claimed five lives, the district administration ordered a magisterial inquiry into the crash, which occurred on May 21. Uttarakhand state working with a medical company in Lucknow, his wife, two sons and their driver died after their vehicle plunged nearly 500m into a gorge on May 21.

Nainital district magistrate Lalit Mohan Rayal said, "This probe aims to uncover the causes of the accident, the possible technical failures or human negligence, and recommend measures to prevent such tragedies in future."

Following the directive, the sub-divisional magistrate of Shri Kaichhi Dham has initiated the inquiry process. The administration has invited members of the public to a public hearing, information, evidence or eyewitness accounts related to the accident at the SDM office on working days till June 8.

To facilitate the investigation, the assistant regional transport officer, Haldwani, has been asked to submit a technical inspection report of the vehicle within a week, while the chief medical officer, Nainital, has been directed to provide medical records of the deceased.

CO Bhowali, has been instructed to provide the FIR, inquest report, post-mortem reports, inspection findings and relevant documents.

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable/Movable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is without recourse" basis as per following details:

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Sl.	NAME & ADDRESS OF BORROWER(S), MORTGAGOR(S) & GUARANTOR(S)	DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE/ MOVABLE PROPERTIES	RESERVE PRICE/ EMD DEPOSIT	TOTAL LIABILITIES
Below mentioned Sale Notice (Sl. No. 1), Dated: 21.05.2026				
1.	M/s Kaid Khadi Gromodiy Vikas Samiti (Borrower), Village & P.O. Mouda, Tehsil Kanth, Dist. Moradabad - 244504	Residential house at Mohalla Choudhary Nagar, Village & P.O. Mouda, Tehsil Kanth, Dist. Moradabad - 244504. (Area: 315.00 Sq Mtr).	₹ 22,08,000/- ₹ 1,07,025	₹ 89,71,299.32 plus int. w.e.f. 01.05.2026 + other expenses minus amount paid/recovered thereafter, if any
2.	M/s Chandrapal Singh (Guarantor), S/o Shri Narayan Singh, Village & P.O. Mouda, Tehsil Kanth, Dist. Moradabad - 244504	Boundaries: East: House Of Haji Kallu, West: Road, North: Plot of Gaurav Kumar, South: House of Atal Kumar.	₹ 33,00,00/-	₹ 89,71,299.32 plus int. w.e.f. 01.05.2026 + other expenses minus amount paid/recovered thereafter, if any
3.	M/s Atal Kumar (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Sri Hargovind Singh, Mohalla Choudhary Nagar, Village & P.O. Mouda, Tehsil Kanth, Dist. Moradabad - 244504	Boundaries: East: House Of Haji Kallu, West: Road, North: Plot of Gaurav Kumar, South: House of Atal Kumar.	₹ 33,00,00/-	₹ 89,71,299.32 plus int. w.e.f. 01.05.2026 + other expenses minus amount paid/recovered thereafter, if any
4.	M/s Saarakh Kumar (Borrower/Mortgagor), S/o Shri Atal Kumar, Mohalla Choudhary Nagar, Village & P.O. Mouda, Tehsil Kanth, Dist. Moradabad - 244504	Boundaries: East: House Of Haji Kallu, West: Road, North: Plot of Gaurav Kumar, South: House of Atal Kumar.	₹ 33,00,00/-	₹ 89,71,299.32 plus int. w.e.f. 01.05.2026 + other expenses minus amount paid/recovered thereafter, if any

Below mentioned Sale Notice (Sl. No. 2 & 3), Dated: 22.05.2026				
2.	M/s Aqsa (Borrower) a partnership concern, served through any of its partners Bhagat Singh Marg, Moradabad Road, (Old Meerut Road, Village Tuvhi), Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701	All that part and parcel of open land situated at Mohalla Taloimoor, Gali No. 02, Bharat Vihar Colony, Near Mandir Road, Bijnor. Area 101.11 sqm.	₹ 46,95,012.38 plus int. w.e.f. 01.05.2026 + other expenses minus amount paid/recovered thereafter, if any	₹ 12,10,00,00/- ₹ 7,21,00,00/-
	M/s Aqsa (Borrower) Second Address: 1179, Apsara, Jajpur Road, Near Parvati Padma, Kaska Bijnor, District Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701.	Boundaries: East: Residential Property of Mr. Shyam Singh, West: Rasta 10ft. wide, North: Property of Mr. Rakesh, South: Property of Jain Ram		
	3. Gerao Kumar (Partner/ Guarantor) S/o Shri Jindendra Singh R/o Village and Post, Nangal Jat, Haldwari, District Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701	Residential house situated at Mohalla Pahar Darwaja, Ward No. 7, Kaska Pargana and Tehsil - Dhampur, Dist. Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701		
	4. Aman Kumar (Partner/ Guarantor) S/o Shri Jindendra Singh R/o House No. 199, Totipura, Nangal Jat, Haldwari, District Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701	Boundaries: East: Residential Property of Mr. Shyam Singh, West: Rasta 10ft. wide, North: Property of Mr. Rakesh, South: Property of Jain Ram		
	5. Smt. Anjali Rani (Mortgagor & Guarantor) W/o Shri Aman Kumar R/o House No. 29, Totipura, Nangal Jat, Haldwari, District Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701	Boundaries: East: Residential Property of Mr. Shyam Singh, West: Rasta 10ft. wide, North: Property of Mr. Rakesh, South: Property of Jain Ram		
	6. Komal Singh (Partner/ Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Shri Param Singh R/o Post Bakapur Gadi, Mukamfagar Gadi, District Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh - 246701	Boundaries: East: Residential Property of Mr. Shyam Singh, West: Rasta 10ft. wide, North: Property of Mr. Rakesh, South: Property of Jain Ram		